

REMARKS

Independent Claims 45, 62 and 102 have been amended to indicate that the flowable absorbent material a) remains able to flow up to a water absorption of 10.5 grams per gram of flowable absorbent material, and b) absorbs said amount of water under conditions where no volume expansion is possible. Page 15, lines 8-9 of the specification indicates that the flowable absorbent material keeps its ability to flow “up to a water absorption of 10.5 g/g.” Page 14, Table 1 and page 15, lines 1-4 indicate that the maximum water absorption capacity of the flowable absorbent material was determined “under conditions where no volume increase...was possible” and provides values of 15.5 g/g, 16.1 g/g and 20 g/g. In each example, the flowable absorbent material absorbed greater than 10.5 g/g (an amount inclusive of 10 g/g) under conditions where no volume expansion was possible. Thus, the amendment is fully supported by the specification.

The objection to the specification is respectfully traversed. As stated by the Examiner, the specification describes a flowable absorbent material which remains able to flow up to a water absorption of 10.5 g/g (Office Action, pp 3-4). Therefore, the specification enables the claimed invention.

The rejection of Claims 45-111 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. As explained above, the claimed invention is enabled by the specification. The claims do not contain new matter.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statement that the specification fails to describe a flowable absorbent material that is "nonswellable." Applicants direct the Examiner to page 15, lines 23-25 of the specification. Nevertheless, to expedite the prosecution, Applicants canceled the rejected claim language, and substituted alternative claim language that is also supported by the specification.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statement that the previous claim language "remains able to flow after absorbing at least 10.5 g/g" means that the material remains able to flow at any absorption exceeding 10.5 g/g. All the language means is that the material absorbs 10.5 g/g and then (thereafter) remains able to flow. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicants canceled the rejected claim language, and substituted alternative claim language that is also supported by the specification.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the claim rejection, and passing of the case to allowance, are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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